

Program Goals

- To increase public awareness about these species
- To identify those species potentially at risk and in need of protective measures before listing under the ESA becomes necessary
- To identify data deficiencies and uncertainties associated with the status of the species
- To work cooperatively with regional co-managers and interest groups to obtain the information necessary to evaluate species status and threats
- To identify conservation opportunities
- To work proactively with Federal and state agencies, Native American tribes, and the public to conserve the species



"The Saltwater Marsh"
© Bryan Winterhoff 2007

The NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.



© ANDY MURCH / ELASMODIVER.COM

Web sites:

- **Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program**

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/concern/grant.htm

- **FWS Candidates**

www.fws.gov/Endangered/candidates/index.html

- **NOAA Fisheries**

www.nmfs.noaa.gov

**NOAA Fisheries
Protected Resources
263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, FL
33701**

727.824.5312

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pr.htm>

The Protected Resources Division is responsible for the conservation, management, and protection of marine mammals and endangered and threatened species occurring in waters of the southeastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Protecting the Oceans Natural Resources

SPECIES OF CONCERN

PROACTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

NOAA
FISHERIES
SOUTHEAST REGION



Sawfish and Sand Tiger Shark

Please contact
Alexis Meyer
for further
information
(Alex.Meyer@noaa.gov)



Protected Resources Division

What is a "Species of Concern"?

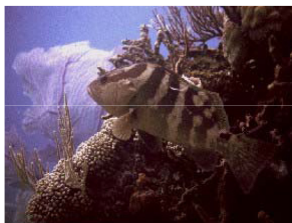
A "Species of Concern" (SOC) is a species or vertebrate population for which there is concern or great uncertainty about its status. Species of concern are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are not protected by the ESA. As resources permit, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts a review of the status of each Species of Concern to determine if it warrants listing as an endangered or threatened species under the ESA. NMFS believes it is important to highlight species that could benefit from proactive conservation efforts.



How to Help

We need your help to raise awareness for these species:

- Visit local aquariums and see real "Species of Concern" up close
- Include brochures or flyers at events and institutions that deal with marine education
- Participate in the Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program
- Volunteer with local organizations to help clean up coastal areas



Designated Species of Concern in the Southeast:

- Alabama Shad
- Atlantic Sturgeon
- Dusky Shark
- Ivory Bush Coral
- Key Silverside
- Largetooth Sawfish
- Mangrove Rivulus
- Night Shark
- Nassau Grouper
- Opossum Pipefish
- Saltmarsh Topminnow
- Sand Tiger Shark
- Speckled Hind
- Striped Croaker

Criteria for Listing

Abundance and productivity:

- Recent and historical rates of decline
- A species that is known only from a small number of specimens
- Native to a particular place of limited geographical range and is found only there (endemism)

Life-history characteristics:

- Vulnerable life-history strategies
- Population connectivity
- Loss of unique life-history traits

Distribution:

- Resilience to environmental variability and catastrophes (Population connectivity)
- Limited geographic range
- Endemism

Threats:

- Extraction
- Habitat degradation and loss
- Disease and predation
- Other natural or man-made factors for decline: including ocean conditions and poor hatchery practices

Program Accomplishments:

- SOC's will now be included as indicator species in the National Marine Sanctuaries program and in the Sanctuaries Encyclopedia
- Over 250 people were introduced to the program through outreach

Current Projects:

- Conducting status reviews for various species
- Continuously monitoring and updating information regarding SOC's in the Southeast U.S.



**Protecting
Conserving
Sustaining**